

Overview of perinatal HIV prevention programs

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Background: Congress awarded \$6.3 million from 1999 to 2003 to fund programs to maximally reduce perinatal HIV transmission in the United States. The monies were awarded to 16 states with high HIV prevalence among women of child-bearing years or high caseloads of children with perinatally-acquired AIDS. Grantees are funding provider training, social marketing, outreach, case management, and rapid testing programs.

Methods: Grantees were asked to report on perinatal HIV prevention services provided and individuals served through December 2001.

Results: Twelve grantees reported having trained a total of 4,516 providers of health care and other services to HIV-infected and high-risk pregnant women and their children. Ten grantees are conducting social marketing campaigns, encouraging pregnant women to be tested for HIV. Eight grantees reported having contacted a total of more than 60,000 women of child-bearing years through outreach programs, of whom at least 1,497 women learned they were pregnant and 100 that they were HIV-positive. Seven grantees reported that a total of 259 HIV-positive pregnant women had been referred into case management, and 72 of these women had delivered, with one documented HIV transmission. Another 6,514 high-risk pregnant women had been referred into case management. Six grantees were planning or had implemented programs to provide rapid HIV testing to women at labor and delivery or in the third trimester of care. The rapid testing programs targeted women who had not received an HIV test earlier in pregnancy, or who continued to engage in behaviors that placed them at risk for acquiring HIV.

Conclusions: Perinatal HIV prevention grantees are providing a variety of services to HIV-infected, pregnant women, and pregnant women at high-risk for HIV infection and their caretakers.